

Appl. No. 10/538,840
Amendment dated: July 21, 2008
Reply to OA of: February 21, 2008

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 23 and ending at page 23, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--"Stringent" conditions are to be understood as when, for example, following the Southern or Northern Blot, the DNA or RNA fragments are hybridised on the membranes with a probe under specific conditions, ie. with a ~~temperature~~ temperature of 60-70°C (38-42°C with 50% hybridisation solutions which contain 50% formamide). Moreover, the conditions are specific or stringent when the washing steps carried out following on from the hybridisation for the elution of non-specifically hybridised DNA or RNA probes are also specifically carried out. Specific washing steps are generally the washing, twice over, at 20-25°C for 5-10 mins with 2xSSC buffer which contains 0.1% SDS (sodium dodecylsulphate) and subsequent washing, twice over, with a buffer with low ionic strength (eg. 0.1xSSC with 0.1% SDS) at a higher temperature (eg. 64°C). [20x: 3M NaCl, 0.3 M sodium citrate, pH 7.0]. In so doing, only those nucleic acids which are complementary to a large extent remain bonded to one another. The creation of stringent conditions is known to experts in the field and is described eg. in Ausubel et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6.--